



November 2006
FLSA: NON-EXEMPT

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs a variety of duties involved in the enforcement and communication of animal services codes, ordinances, and regulations; ensures public safety by capturing and caring for wild, vicious, and/or injured animals; and performs related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from assigned supervisory or management personnel. No supervision of staff is exercised.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is a journey-level class that independently performs a variety of complex animal control duties, including field patrol, investigation, and quarantine of specified animals. This class is distinguished from sworn Police classes in that it performs law enforcement and police support duties that do not require performance by a sworn police officer. This class is further distinguished from Police Sergeant in that the latter is a sworn Police class and the first supervisory level in the sworn officer class series.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Patrols areas within the City and enforces animal services codes, ordinances, and regulations; investigates reports of animal abuse; issues citations; collects fees; takes other appropriate actions.
- Captures and impounds unlicensed, stray, and uncontrolled animals; transports animals to shelter; arranges for proper storage and humane care.
- Picks up dead or injured animals; provides aid to injured animals; transports animals to veterinarian for treatment or euthanasia; medicates and vaccinates animals to be adopted.
- Responds to calls from citizens for animal services; investigates complaints involving animals; investigates reports of dogs, cats, or other animals creating nuisances.
- Determines whether calls meet the criteria for emergency response and call out, how quarantines should be handled; evaluates and authorizes immediate care of euthanasia for sick and injured animals, emergency seizure of animals, owner relinquishments in the field; determines whether a criminal complaint and/or dangerous/vicious dog investigation should be initiated.
- Assists Police Department with animal related issues, for example when an individual gets arrested and they have pets to be cared for.
- Establishes and maintains positive community relations through programs, demonstrations, and public assistant regarding humane animal services, including wildlife issues, adoption procedures, and enforcement of animals regulations; speaks at school and other meetings, and answers specific and general questions.

- Identifies and investigates animal related crimes, interviews witnesses, collects evidence, writes reports, and testifies in court.
- Investigates reports of animal bites, completes state mandated quarantines as necessary.
- Answers questions regarding the enforcement of animal services, regulations, adoption and licensing policies and procedures.
- Prepares reports and maintains records, logs, and files of activities; prepares cases and complaints for court action; testifies in court.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Methods and techniques of handling, collection, impoundment, and registration of a variety of wild and domestic animals in various conditions.
- Identification of various breeds of dogs, cats, and other domestic animals.
- Principles of animal behavior and care.
- Principles, practices, methods and techniques of code violation investigation and compliance.
- Practices for documenting inspections, correcting violations and carrying through on Court procedures.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations including administrative and departmental policies.
- Occupational hazards and standard safety practices necessary in the area of animal services.
- Techniques and practices of public speaking and making presentation before small groups.
- Principles of record keeping and reporting.
- Modern office practices, methods and computer equipment.
- Computer applications related to the work.
- English usage, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.
- Techniques for dealing with and solving the problems presented by a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, in person and over the telephone.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service to public and City staff, in person and over the telephone.

Ability to:

- Recognize normal and abnormal animal behavior.
- Handle potentially dangerous animals in a safe manner.
- Inoculate and medicate animals, after completion of the appropriate training.
- Interpret, explain, apply, and enforce laws, ordinances, and regulations pertaining to animal services.
- Effectively respond to calls for services.
- Access, retrieve, enter, and update information using a computer terminal.
- Interpret and apply applicable Federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations including administrative and departmental policies.
- Prepare, maintain and update accurate and detailed documentation of inspection findings and other written materials, records, logs and reports.
- Effectively represent the City in meetings with governmental and regulatory agencies, community groups, property owners, business owners, and the public.
- Operate and maintain a variety of animal control equipment.
- Operate a two-way radio.
- Make accurate mathematic computations.
- Maintain accurate records and files of work performed.

- Understand and carry out oral and written instructions.
- Organize work, set priorities, meet critical deadlines, and exercise sound, independent judgment within established guidelines.
- Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and software programs.
- Use English effectively to communicate in person, over the telephone and in writing.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence and independent judgment within general policy, procedural and legal guidelines.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees and those contacted in the course of the work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

Equivalent to the completion of the twelfth (12th) grade and two (2) years of experience in the enforcement and communication of animals services codes, ordinances, and regulations and the humane care and handling of animals. College-level coursework in animal health care and experience with a public agency are highly desirable.

License:

- Valid California class C driver's license with satisfactory driving record.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; to operate a motor vehicle, to inspect various City and residential sites, and to walk on uneven terrain; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before groups and over the telephone. This is primarily a field classification with frequent standing in work areas and walking between work areas required. Wrist flexion and lateral rotation are necessary in combination with grasping to handle a snare and leash. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter and retrieve data using a computer keyboard, typewriter keyboard or calculator and to operate standard office equipment. Positions in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects necessary to perform job functions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

Employees primarily work outside and may be exposed to inclement weather conditions and potentially hazardous physical substances. May involve exposure to dangerous and/or diseased animals, and animals known to cause allergies. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

WORKING CONDITIONS

May be required to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.